

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-1

NEW YORK TIMES
22 OCTOBER 1982

A Key Polish Banker Defects, Linked to Spying for Warsaw

By HOWARD BLUM

The highest-ranking Polish banker in the United States, who American officials say was also a Polish spy, has defected to this country, according to Government officials and intelligence sources.

The banker, Andrzej Treumann, and his wife and daughter are in protective custody in the Washington area while he is interviewed by agents of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to Government officials who have had access to debriefing reports.

Mr. Treumann was the representative in North America of Bank Handlowy, the foreign-trade bank that manages the bulk of Poland's debt to the West. He lived with his family in Flushing, Queens, and his office was at 405 Park Avenue.

Leading a Double Life

The details of Mr. Treumann's espionage activities and the reasons for his decision to defect are tightly guarded secrets.

Officials said they could not discuss the case on the record because it involved intelligence matters.

However, based on interviews with Government officials, Mr. Treumann's associates in international banking and his neighbors in Queens, a picture emerges of a conscientious banker who was apparently leading two lives.

Those two lives apparently began to unravel in late July. Mr. Treumann stopped going to the office, and reports began circulating in the banking community that Mr. Treumann, who had

told friends he had been scheduled to return to Poland in August, had vanished.

The mystery surrounding Mr. Treumann was heightened when officials at Bank Handlowy, responding to inquiries from business associates, said they did not know Mr. Treumann's whereabouts.

At the time, neighbors in the Flushing apartment house where the banker lived said the Treumann family had not been seen for weeks.

In late August, however, Bank Handlowy mailed a one-sentence notice to American banks stating that Mr. Treumann had "terminated his activities as our representative in the United States."

Calls at the time to Mr. Treumann's apartment were answered by Eugene Szewczyk, who said he had temporarily replaced Mr. Treumann as Bank Handlowy's representative. Mr. Szewczyk has since been replaced by another official, Vladimir Lewicki.

United States Government officials now confirm that Mr. Treumann, who acted as a representative in the negotiations over the rescheduling of the payment of Poland's \$26 billion debt to the West, has defected.

'Pleasant, Open Fellow'

Mr. Treumann joins a growing list of his countrymen who have defected to the United States since martial law was declared in Poland. These defectors include the former Ambassador to the United States, Romuald Spasowski, and the former Ambassador to Japan, Zdzislaw Rurarz.

Mr. Treumann's defection, according to these officials, is particularly significant since Mr. Treumann, who has been in New York for two and a half years, was also a highly placed spy for the Polish intelligence service.

Charles F. Meissner, a State Department negotiator in the loan discussions

with Polish officials, described Mr. Treumann as "a very pleasant, open fellow" whose function appeared to be "more of a conduit than a policy player."

'Used to Annoy Hardliners'

A banker who has known Mr. Treumann for many years gave a similar description: "Andrzej Treumann's personality and style are very Western oriented. He had a candid and open style of doing business in the West rather than the Eastern European style of subterfuge and game playing. He used to annoy the hardliners, his masters, with his style and his easy familiarity with Westerners."

Mr. Treumann came to New York in 1979 to open the North American office of Bank Handlowy. With headquarters in Warsaw, Bank Handlowy is the commercial bank that, under the guidance of the Polish Ministry of Finance, has handled the negotiations over rescheduling the payment of Poland's foreign debt. Poland owes about \$26 billion to Western governments and banks, including \$1.6 billion to the Federal Government and \$1.4 billion to American banks.

Before opening the office, Mr. Treumann had been a senior official of the bank in Warsaw, and American officials said Mr. Treumann had had a hand in arranging some of the larger Western loan to Poland in the mid-1970's. He is listed in a directory of Polish officials, published by the C.I.A. in 1979, as holding the post of deputy director of general operations as of July 1978.

Mr. Treumann, who is believed to be in his early 40's, lived with his family at the Skyline Towers apartment building at 43-23 Colden Street.